

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE, SOLDIER

COL(P) James R. Moran

Introduction

On June 7, 2002, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology/Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) Claude M. Bolton Jr. hosted the activation ceremony for Program Executive Office, Soldier (PEO, Soldier). The ceremony at the Fort Belvoir, VA, Headquarters Parade Field was attended by distinguished guests, friends, and family of Program Executive Officer COL(P) James R. Moran.

Bolton commented, "The soldier is the Army's ultimate weapon. He or she is the crucial and integral component of the successful employment of all Army systems. Amazingly, the soldier system has had no central organization focus—until today. PEO, Soldier changes that. This day is long overdue."

History

In 1999, the Army Science Board recommended establishment of a PEO to provide centralized management and executive-level acquisition management for soldier systems. Consequently, on Oct. 26, 2001, then Acting Army Acquisition Executive Dr. Kenneth J. Oscar created the PEO, Soldier to optimize soldier system acquisition programs' interoperability and standardization and provide executive-level authority and responsibility for program, technical, quality, and readiness management and logistics support.

PEO, Soldier also provides direction and integration of assigned programs and ensures effective interface with HQDA, other Services, combat developers, and supporting commands. Further, PEO, Soldier develops, acquires, procures, fields, and sustains safe, reliable, state-of-the-art, and cost-effective soldier systems.

PEO, Soldier is responsible for 346 acquisition category I, II, and III programs such as Land Warrior, Air Warrior, Interceptor Body Armor,

Load Carrying Equipment, Advanced Tactical Parachutes, Thermal Weapon Sights, Night Vision Devices, XM-8, XM-29, and XM-307. The organization is focused directly and exclusively on the soldier—both today and throughout the Army's transformation to the Objective Force. PEO, Soldier ensures that the American soldier has what is needed to accomplish any mission swiftly and decisively.

Aviator's Night Vision Imaging System



Team Soldier

PEO, Soldier is organized to manage the soldier as a system, including everything a soldier wears, carries, and consumes in a tactical environment. For the first time in Army history, acquisition responsibility for the entire soldier is under one organization.

Management of PEO, Soldier acquisition programs is the responsibility of two project managers and six product managers. Project Manager, Soldier Systems is comprised of Product Manager, Soldier Equipment; Product Manager, Soldier Electronics; Product Manager, Soldier Sensors; and Product Manager, Aircrew Integrated Systems (ACIS). These product managers are located at Fort Belvoir, VA, with the exception of Product Manager, ACIS, who is located at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Project Manager, Soldier Weapons is comprised of Product Manager, Individual Weapons and Product Manager, Crew-Served Weapons, all out of Picatinny, NJ.

The vision of PEO, Soldier is to be the premier center of excellence for transforming soldiers' capability to continuously dominate the battlespace across the full spectrum of peace and war.

Team Soldier encompasses many world-class Army organizations such as the Army Materiel Command, the Army Training and Doctrine Command, PEOs, and project and product managers. The team is proud to be partnered with these organizations in working toward the goal of ensuring that the soldier is the centerpiece of the formation.

Responsibilities

Product Manager, Soldier Systems provides the fundamental interface between the trained and ready soldier, the extremes of the operational environment, and the digital battlefield. It also provides direction and guidance for materiel development,



acquisition, testing, product improvement, fielding, and supportability of soldier systems. The soldier system includes all items worn or carried by the individual soldier. Project Manager, Soldier Systems is the materiel developer of the Land Warrior Program, the first integrated fighting system designed to provide combat overmatch to the infantryman in the close fight.

Product Manager, Soldier Equipment develops, fields, and sustains, as part of an integrated soldier sys-

tem, individual soldier equipment for all operational environments within the soldier systems architecture. In addition, product manager personnel deal with a broad range of soldier provisions such as ballistic and personal protection; tactical, environmental, and personal clothing; individual and unit equipment; and chemical gear.

Product Manager, Soldier Electronics develops, acquires, and integrates electronic subsystems containing soldier load bearing, sensors, and weapon subsystems into the Land Warrior by using commercial off-the-shelf and government off-the-shelf technology. This product management office develops items such as the Land Warrior wireless local area network antenna, helmet-mounted display, Global Positioning System, soldier radio, and daylight video sight camera.

Product Manager, Soldier Sensors serves the needs of the individual soldier by managing the development; configuration; test and evaluation; procurement; and fielding of electro-optical, image intensification, and infrared technologies and laser and thermal imaging devices. Dismounted soldiers, ground crews, aircrews, and other soldiers will use this equipment, and it will be integrated into other systems for Army and Marine Corps project/product managers and program executive officers. In addition, Product Manager, Soldier Sensors manages the hand-held night vision equipment with the objective of increasing the soldier's combat effectiveness by improving lethality, command and control, sustainability, mobility, and survivability. The Product Manager, Soldier Sensors also ensures horizontal technology integration for soldier-borne sensors (emitters and detectors) used in target acquisition and aiming systems.

Product Manager, ACIS provides centralized life-cycle project management of Army and joint Service

THE SOLDIER

*"It is the soldier, not the reporter who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag."*

Father Denis Edward O'Brien
U.S. Marine Corps

programs that improve aircrew safety, increase aircrew and passenger survivability, and enhance aircrew performance in modern technology aircraft. Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) addresses those items that sustain aircrews and passengers throughout the flight profile and flight environment. ALSE enhances mission performance and aircrew survivability during combat and noncombat operations, through an aircraft crash, and through the post-crash period prior to rescue.

Some of the systems in which Product Manager, ACIS has been involved to meet future aviation life support challenges include Air Warrior, helmets and helmet-mounted subsystems, eye protection visors, aircrew restraint and air bag systems, aircraft oxygen systems, survival systems and equipment, flotation devices, and virtual cockpit.

Project Manager, Soldier Weapons ensures that U.S. soldiers have an overmatch in individual and crew-served weapon capabilities on present and future battlefields. This project manager also maintains individual and crew-served weapon readiness for the Army through intensive management of the full acquisition life cycle. Personnel are

immediately responsive to the soldier's wartime individual and crew-served weapon requirements. Project Manager, Soldier Weapons ensures interoperability with soldier system programs to achieve the goals of the Objective Force Warrior.

Product Manager, Individual Weapons is developing the lethality upgrade to Land Warrior and the baseline system for Future Combat Systems.

Product Manager, Crew-Served Weapons manages research, development, test and evaluation, and procurement for XM-307, pistols, shotguns, rifles, machine guns, carbines, grenade launchers, lethal and non-lethal ammunition and grenades, and optics and fire control that are weapon-mounted. The product manager also oversees the integration of all items that claim real estate on small arm platforms.

Conclusion

PEO, Soldier provides centralized and executive-level acquisition management for soldier systems. PEO, Soldier is also responsible for developing and procuring state-of-the-art, cost-effective soldier systems to ensure that soldiers have what they

need to accomplish missions swiftly and decisively.

For further information, call PEO, Soldier at (703) 704-2802 or DSN 654-2802, or go to the Web site at www.peosoldier.army.mil.

COL(P) JAMES R. MORAN is the Program Executive Officer, Soldier—the first to lead this new organization. He has a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy, an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and an M.S. in national resource strategy. His education also includes completion of the Materiel Acquisition Management Course, the Army Command and General Staff College, the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.
